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TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1874.

TRIPLE SHEET.

It is reported that Prince Bismarck is endeavoring to force Denmark to join the German Confederation. ==== The Duke of Parma and Counts Caserte and Bardi have agreed that Don Carlos shall be the sole representative of the Bourbon branches.

Gen. Brooke transferred the State Government of Louisiana to Gov. Kellogg on Saturday; citizens of Bayou Sara, anticipating an outbreak among the negroes, called for military protection, and troops were sent to the parish by Gen. Emory. ==== The redemption of National Bank notes has been temporarily suspended. ==== Twenty persons lost their lives, and 36 were wounded during the fire in Granite Mill No. 1, at Fall River, Mass., on Saturday; three persons are missing. The loss on the mill and machinery, estimated at $270,000, is fully covered by insurance. ==== The cotton and woolen manufacturers of Rhode Island urge a curtailment of the production of goods in the mills. ==== Mr. Beecher preached at the Twin Mountain House yesterday. ==== Gen. Butler continued his canvass for re-election by addressing his constituents at Essex, Mass., Saturday night.

The Rev. Dr. Miner preached on "Mind and Matter" in opposition to Prof. Tyndall's views. ==== Quick transit schemes by which a day will be saved between Chicago and Ogden are contemplated. ==== An alleged incendiary was arrested. ==== A drunken man was kicked to death by a private watchman. ==== A barkeeper was stabbed dangerously by a sailor. ==== Gold, 109¾. ==== Thermometer, 67°, 69°, 69°.

Sunday morning's weather report was not much more successful than its immediate predecessors. "Cloudy and threatening, followed "by clear weather" was a prediction of which only the first half proved correct, and the rain of last night put the other half out of the question. Whether the long continuance of dry weather which preceded this storm has demoralized the observers so that they no longer recognize the changes of the sky, or whether their vanes, like the weathercocks of our Dutch ancestors, have rusted fast and fail to record the ways of the wind, we may never know; but that something is wrong in the Signal Office is fast becoming a patent fact.

The speech of William H. Trescott, a candidate for Congress from the IIId District of South Carolina, gives some good advice to his followers of the Conservative party. He tells them in very plain terms that the situation must be accepted; that not only must they be unwilling to abridge the rights of the colored citizen before the law, they must convince the country of that unwillingness, while endeavoring to win the confidence of the colored people and teach them to be good citizens. He admits the difficulties of the task, but urges it as the only prospect of political success. If advice like this had been taken long ago, South Carolina would have not been in its present impoverished condition. But it is not too late, and the prospect of improvement when this advice is followed will not be far distant.

The prospect of active measures on the part of the Board of Health at this season of the year is exceedingly gratifying. The steps to be taken in regard to the location of slaughter-houses and the improvement of drainage in the upper wards of the city, will elicit unqualified approval from the majority of our citizens, though a few may have their business temporarily inconvenienced. After these rains a moist atmosphere will have its usual effect in increasing the death rate, unless there is special effort to cleanse and purify low-lying localities where the drainage is insufficient and malaria is ever in waiting. Prompt work now will stave off the approach of the children's Autumn foe—scarlet fever; will check the diphtheria and prevent its becoming epidemic, and will prove a more effectual safeguard than vaccination against small-pox next Winter.

The surrender of the insurgent government is by no means a solution of the Louisiana problem. The endeavor to reinstate the Kellogg officials brings back with it lawlessness and violence, not from the whites who have succumbed, but from the negroes who are encouraged. In the near prospect of deplorable anarchy, the citizens of New-Orleans beg for a military rule rather than for that which is to be reinstated. A force for the protection of the white people against a contemplated negro outbreak at Bayou Sara, was solicited and obtained from Gen. Emory. On the other hand, a very notable contribution to the history of this affair is a petition for the restoration of the Penn Government, signed by a considerable number of colored residents of New-Orleans. Will they be heeded at Washington, where the despairing cry of white citizens has always fallen on deaf ears?

Prof. Tyndall's utterances at Belfast have called forth abundant opposition on both sides of the Atlantic. Our correspondence describes at length the criticism with which his address was received at Belfast; his opponents there seem to have endeavored to make up in bitterness what they wanted in ability. Of a far different kind are the arguments against Prof. Tyndall's doctrines which we present this morning from Dr. McCosh of Princeton and Dr. Miner of Tuffts College. The former is peculiarly well equipped for this controversy by his classical and metaphysical studies, which have not prevented him from acquiring a knowledge of the progress and just claims of natural science, unusual in his profession. He attacks the historical data of Prof. Tyndall as partial and misleading; handles his philosophy with pitiless logic, and turns his admissions to the utmost advantage. Granting equal abilities on the part of these champions, it seems not improbable that where Prof. Tyndall has stepped out of the beaten pathways of science, he has advanced into a territory with which the Scotch logician is the more familiar.

THE PARTY AND THE THIRD TERM.

The Republican party cannot afford to treat with indifference the agitation of the question of a third term for President Grant. If it be said that it is not the province of State or Congressional Conventions to express opinions with regard to a Presidential nomination two years away, it will be answered that this is not a question of candidates or preferences such as are within the immediate scope of a National Convention. It relates utterly and entirely to a political principle, a doctrine of politics, an essential feature in the accepted theory of a democratic form of government. No one is so blind as to be unable to see in the light of the citations from authorities lately published in THE TRIBUNE that the reëlection of a President for a third term would be a radical departure from the ideas upon which the Government was founded, a confession that so far as the Government which the fathers of the republic intended to establish is concerned, it is a failure. It is a question which once agitated must be met, and met fairly, and the Republican party, which is so much in the habit of "pointing "with pride" to its achievements in preserving and perpetuating in its integrity the Government founded by the fathers, cannot evade the plain question which the very exigency of the time thrusts upon it, whether after all it will consent to abandon the fundamental principles of the Government it boasts of having preserved.

It cannot be coughed down as an impertinence, derided as an absurdity, or set aside as having no vital connection with present politics. If it is an absolute delusion that such a thing as a third term is possible, it will be no derogation of dignity to make answer to that effect, since the discussion has become general and there are so many circumstances to give foundation and consistency to the belief that it is seriously contemplated. A sufficient number of voters have been impressed with a sense of peril from it to warrant the party in recognizing it as a proper subject of discussion and action. The party is not so strong that it can afford to be indifferent to the fears or laugh at the doubts of so considerable a number of citizens who hold ballots in their hands. If all these fears are idle and these suspicions groundless; if there is a conviction amounting to certainty in the minds of those who are looked up to as the party leaders that President Grant does not desire a third term, or that, whether he desires it or not, the strong good sense and patriotism of the party will quietly and firmly put him aside, there can be no earthly harm in saying so in its official utterances.

If, on the other hand, there is the least shadow of doubt in the minds of the party leaders as to Grant's ambition for a renomination, or the policy of the party in that regard; if there is not so positive and absolute a certainty that he cannot be renominated, that any convention may safely say so without a division upon the vote; if, indeed, it is not a question upon which there can be no argument, then we say, what thousands of citizens believe to-day, that it is *the* most important question in current politics. In the midst of the great issues which relate to finance and currency, civil rights, reconstruction, reform in the civil service, the relations of capital and labor, railroads, transportation, internal improvements, and all the rest, it rises above and dwarfs them all. For these, after all, are but questions of policy under a settled government; the other is a question of unsettling the foundations of government itself. To put it aside is to say that the party does not consider it of consequence enough to call for an expression of opinion, and such a course must necessarily insure a forfeiture of the confidence of that large body of citizens who have observed with alarm the disposition to tamper with so grave and serious a subject. To postpone its consideration is to give time and opportunity to those whose interests lie in that direction to familiarize the public mind with the possibility of the event, and lead the party slowly up to "first endure, "then pity, then embrace" the dangerous proposition.

The issue is vital, present, pronounced. It cannot be evaded. It must be met fairly and frankly or the people will not be satisfied. Pennsylvania, by the nomination of Hartranft in her Republican State Convention, has set a precedent for linking the elections of this season with the Presidential succession; Kansas has recognized the third-term issue by pronouncing positively against it in her Republican State Convention; some of the Congressional Conventions have done the same, and South Carolina, in her Republican State Convention the other day, boldly unfurled the flag for a third term, making further concealment and evasion useless. By all these official acts of the party, as well as by the less important though no less significant action of many Administration newspapers, some of which sit close at the feet of the President and enjoy his confidence, the question is lifted entirely out of the realm of abstractions into the domain of present practical politics. To the pending October and November elections it is specially and essentially pertinent. The influence of these elections upon 1876 does not need to be pointed out. Administration successes must strengthen the party for the next Presidential election. A majority of the people may—doubtless do—prefer the continuance of the Republican party in power rather than to trust its opponents. But a very large majority would prefer Democratic success to a third term of Grant. Wherever there has been an open and frank avowal of hostility to the third term, Republicans of this class can safely vote their party ticket. Wherever there is any doubt, or where it seems, in the absence of any expression by the party, that Republican success may promote the fortunes of the President at the same time with the party, the general disposition will be to vote against the party, in order to warn it away from the danger of renominating Grant by the lesson of defeat.

There is but one argument left upon which the managing politicians can stave off action. That is the preservation of harmony in the party. But the people will not be slow to perceive, in that event, that the confession of divided counsels upon this subject is an indication of most serious peril, and that there will remain then but one course open, to stamp out and vote out the very possibility of it in the future. Harmony secured at the price of silence upon this question will be paid for later with defeat.

BUTLER TO THE RESCUE.

The soul of Mr. Benjamin F. Butler is in arms and eager for the fray. He foresees a new rebellion. For that and that only, although he has an incidental interest in protecting and defending the rights of the fishermen of Gloucester which are put in jeopardy by the Reciprocity Treaty, he desires to be returned to Congress. We gather from his opening remarks at Gloucester on Saturday evening that he had pretty much made up his mind to retire from public life, when he heard his country's call, and concluded to postpone that event until he should have crushed the new rebellion. The Louisiana troubles have fired his martial ardor. They have grown out of the Democratic successes in New-Hampshire and Connecticut, he thinks. These have emboldened the rebels to make hostile demonstrations against the Kellogg Government; and although the insurgents, after overthrowing the Government which they believed to be a usurpation, made unresisting surrender to the United States authorities, he is confident that their hostility is directed to the Federal Government and that they mean to overthrow it. "If," says he, in a fine burst of eloquence, "Democratic "successes in New-Hampshire and Connecti- "cut emboldened these rebels and traitors to "overthrow a State Government, what would "they not do if they should succeed in defeat- "ing ME?"

The appeal was a stirring one. Doubtless his supporters were impressed with the conviction that the perpetuity of the Union depends upon the election of Mr. Butler to represent the Essex District in Congress. Should he be defeated the rebels will take heart at once and march against Washington, the Government will be overthrown, and the colored man left without a friend. Possibly the impression prevails in Gloucester that the presence of Mr. Butler in Congress is all that has kept things together for the past six or eight years, and that the rebellious element at the South is only waiting to hear of his defeat to reënslave the blacks and upset the Constitution. In the dense ignorance of political affairs that exists outside of Gloucester, no one seems aware how much the country owes to Mr. Butler, or how much depends upon his reëlection. Let us be thankful that he knows it and that he has not hesitated from any scruples of modesty or delicacy from enlightening the citizens of Gloucester upon the subject. How Gloucester must have shivered when this battle-scarred (with two r's in scarred) hero put them the fearful inquiry, "If Democratic successes in New-Hampshire "and Connecticut have emboldened these men "to take up arms in Louisiana, what *would* "they do if *I* should be defeated?" It must have thrilled the strong frames of the Gloucester mariners like the bite of a twenty-pound codfish. Four hundred men, as we are told, sat calmly and heard him through with his soul-stirring conundrums, but we must believe that they vowed then and there to return Butler to Congress and save the things so threatened with revolution, rebellion, and overthrow.

The history which Mr. Butler gave of his raising troops for the war, and the reasons for his fondness for the colored man, must have been full of entertainment for a Gloucester audience, as it cannot be less than six months since they heard them. The story is always new and always fresh, and no man who has not a bad heart can listen to it and have the brutality to allude afterwards to Mr. Butler's position on the questions of Currency and Finance, Crédit Mobilier, Back Pay, Moiety Frauds, Sanborn Contracts, or any other disturbing issue. It is a little late, to be sure, to be defending robbery in South Carolina, usurpation in Louisiana, and misgovernment throughout the South with the argument that the colored people were friendly to our soldiers during the war; but then, let us keep reading Mr. Butler's speeches and remember how much depends upon his being kept in Congress, and try to be happy. He is an exceedingly important person. He says so himself, and he never makes a speech to a few friends that reporters are not sent to attend on him, and telegraph offices kept open to fling his beautiful thoughts abroad. And yet there comes to us the crushing thought that Gloucester itself is in an exposed situation, and that the citizens of that imperiled port, recognizing its danger and the prowess of Mr. Butler, may decide to keep him at home to defend it. That of course will end the days of the American Union; but there is consolation in the thought that a great many of us can flee to Gloucester and be safe.

TRADE PROSPECTS.

In whatever we have heretofore said in relation to the present state or future prospects of trade, our sole object has been to set forth the truth. We aim to secure confidence and respect for our opinions, and the best way to do this is to be sincere. What are the prospects of trade for the six or twelve months ahead of us? We give in another part of this morning's paper the opinions of merchants and others on the subject, from which the reader will be able to form his own idea. We fully agree with the more moderate of the views referred to. Further light on the present prospects of trade is to be sought for from two sources;—first, the careful study of all known facts, and, second, a reference to past experience under similar circumstances.

I. The facts attending the present depression of trade are not without redeeming features. The circumstance that for the last eighteen months there has been an unprecedented foreign demand for our breadstuffs has not been without its good effects in relieving the intensity of the crisis. It has enabled the farmers to keep on the safe side of the account in their dealings with the country merchants. This, in turn, enables the retailers to settle punctually with the wholesale dealers in the great cities. It has also had another effect, not less beneficial. It has given the growers of wheat and some other agricultural products increased power to sustain the effects of the lower range of prices which is now established for breadstuffs. It is idle to consider the crisis of 1873 as other than a commercial catastrophe of the first rank, yet the trade of the country, as measured by the imports of foreign dry goods, has not suffered so severe a check as it did in 1857. This we consider to be the direct effect of the more favorable position of the agricultural interest, which, it must not be forgotten, forms a far greater proportion of the whole population of the United States than it does of Great Britain. An extremely low price of wheat is doubtless a benefit to English trade, but low prices of wheat and cotton are unquestionably a cause of dull trade here, and it must be admitted that their effects will be felt by trade during the coming months.

There is another fact which we consider of the highest importance. The British export trade for the last fifteen months has been declining. Comparing month by month, 1874 with 1872, we find that six of the months show a decrease, and only two a small increase. Thus the English export movement is no greater now than it was thirty months ago. But there are causes at work which are certain to revive British trade. There is an abundant harvest throughout Europe, and the greater cheapness of food will leave more income to be expended by the mass of consumers on clothing. In 1869 England exported 2,869,000,000 yards of cotton piece goods; in 1870, 3,367,000,000; in 1871, 3,417,000,000, and in 1872, 3,538,000,000. Since 1872 there has been no increase. Now the prospect of an increase is certain. But what is that to us? Everything, since we furnish the raw material. We also furnish wheat, corn, petroleum, tobacco, cheese, beef, pork, and provisions of all kinds to the laboring population of England. Next to the state of the laborer in our own country it is of vital consequence to us that the English laborer have work to do and good pay for doing it. The mouths and backs of the laboring people of England, France, Germany, and Belgium are the destination of three-fourths of our entire exports. We are convinced that the prospects of European labor, on account of the greater cheapness of wheat (which is a far heavier item of expense to an English mechanic than it ever is to an American), are much brighter than they were four or five months ago, and that we in this country will feel the effects before the Winter is over in improved prices for cotton and other staple articles of export, wheat perhaps excepted.

II. So far as the progress of events and available statistical information enable us to make a comparison with the state of trade which prevailed in this country for two or three years after the panics of 1837 and 1857, and in England after 1837, 1847, 1857 and 1866, the result is remarkably favorable to the present period. To begin with, very little commercial rottenness has been developed in Great Britain, our great customer and creditor. The same remark may also be made of the state of affairs here. On the whole our banking system has been more prudently handled than it was in the years previous to 1837 and 1857. There have been great abuses, as some recent failures show, and as indeed is apparent from the official statistics, but after all the banks bid fair to come out of their difficulties in better shape than they did twenty and forty years ago. The above observations apply with still greater force to banking in Great Britain. While, therefore, we do not shut our eyes to the features which are common to the present depression and those which have preceded it on each side of the Atlantic, and would earnestly recommend the history and philosophy of such depressions to the careful study of our merchants, manufacturers, and bankers, we think the country will escape from the consequences of 1873, having suffered less distress than our ancestors did in atoning for their excesses. So far as panics are concerned, there is nothing new under the sun.

THE FALL RIVER CALAMITY.

Although the loss of life occasioned by the burning of the woolen mill at Fall River is not quite so large as at first reported, the very full details which we print this morning do not materially diminish the horrors of the disaster. More than a score of young girls—mere children—were killed outright; more than thirty are seriously injured. Pent up in a raging furnace of smoke and flame sixty feet from the ground, absolutely wild with terror, these poor little creatures failed to avail themselves of the slender and insufficient means of escape that were provided. Some sprang from the windows, some shrank back into the flames; and perhaps those who then and there met their death were less unfortunate than those who have saved their lives only to be permanently crippled and disfigured.

Whatever may be the verdict of the investigation which follows this disaster, the blame for it must fall on human shoulders. The responsibility does not rest with Divine Providence. It is not sufficient to say, "There were "so many fire-escapes provided; there were "such and such means of egress; the children "perished because they lost their presence of "mind." All this may be true, but the fact that they would lose their wits on such an occasion, should have been equally provided for. Men, women, and children, with few and rare exceptions, inevitably yield to overwhelming terror when the prospect of being burned to death is suddenly revealed to them. Recognizing this tendency, our authorities compel the owners of public buildings where large audiences gather to provide abundant doors and stairways, so that means of egress can be given on the first alarm. Would it be accepted as any excuse if the proprietors of public halls or theaters were to assign as a reason for not providing duplicate doors and stairways that there were fire escapes attached outside near some of the windows? Surely not. Yet is there any reason why there should be less of provision for saving the lives of a crowd of operatives in a mill, than of the people who assemble in theaters or churches? Considering that the operatives are compelled by their necessities to place themselves daily in the danger, and that the people who make up public assemblies do so of their own option, the former would seem to deserve all possible safeguards, rather than the latter.

As to this matter of fire escapes; are they worthy the name? Dozens of inventions have been exhibited, patented, tested, any one of which would, had it been attached to the granite walls of the woolen mill at Fall River, have conveyed those poor children in safety from the blazing garret to the pavement. There are cages that run on wire ropes; there are ingenious windlass arrangements; there are tubular shutes and telescopic elevators, on record in the Patent Office, enough to fill a volume with the descriptions of their usefulness and applicability; but after they have been set up and shown in our streets, and the inventors' friends have ascended and descended on them, and a newspaper paragraph has detailed their merits, they go into oblivion. We never hear of them when a tenement house burns or a hotel takes fire. Had the present calamity taken place in this State, we could have hoped for little more than the wisdom of a coroner's jury and a verdict mildly distributing an indefinite blame. But in Massachusetts something more thorough and valuable may be expected. After the local investigation is finished, the matter will probably be brought before the consideration of the State Labor Bureau, an organization which has the welfare of working-people at heart and has already done excellent service in their behalf. We do not propose to forestall their suggestions, feeling well assured that after duly reviewing all the circumstances of this disaster, they will point the way to prevent a recurrence. Let us hope that in the long interval that must elapse before Massachusetts laws shall provide this measure of safety for her laboring children, and the still longer interval before other States follow her example, we may have few such calamities as those of Saturday to record.

THE REDEMPTION EXPERIMENT.

We regret to make the announcement that the bank-note-greenback redemption business at Washington has got all tangled up, like a boy's fishing-line. It will be of no use to send in bank notes for the next two weeks, for the greenbacks will not be forthcoming. The whole force will now be occupied for several days in sending small parcels of new bank notes for redemption to the two thousand banks scattered over two million square miles of our territory. When the greenbacks have been collected in sufficient quantity from the banks and brought to the Treasurer by the swift-footed express companies, redemption from the Treasury will be resumed.

The failure of the redemption scheme to work, though not overburdened with business, and never required to handle one-tenth part the money its friends predicted would be consigned to it, greatly strengthens the argument for doing way entirely with the circulation of small notes after the resumption of specie payments. The present system of issuing bank notes of small denominations, though the paper were redeemable on demand in coin, would still leave no room for coin to circulate. Redemption, to judge from the present experiment and all past experience, would be too slow and difficult a business to be effectual. No bank would find it necessary or for its interest, under ordinary circumstances, to keep any considerable amount of gold on hand, and the natural consequence would be that as soon as any call for gold arose, either to satisfy a foreign demand or as a consequence of internal distrust, or from both causes combined, as would probably be the case, a universal suspension of specie payments would be resorted to. That would be the natural catastrophe of a system of specie payments without any specie with which to support it. That, in fact, was the actual experience of our banking system in 1837, 1839, 1857, and 1861, not to mention the suspension of greenback payments in 1873. Such a state of weakness, as regards the ability of banks to pay their debts, should be guarded against in the future.

Unless Mr. Theodore Tilton exhausts himself beforehand with the preparation of ingenious statements designed to show that all mankind are the creatures of his magnanimity, there is a chance that the trial will come off, provided the prospect for heavy financial returns looks favorable. In that case a pleasing subject of conjecture presents itself. Where, in the name of all that is confused and confusing, is the jury in this case to come from? Where are to be found the twelve good men and true who have not expressed an "opinion," or formed an "idea," or received an "impression" of this affair? It would be difficult enough to sift them out of the million and more inhabitants of New-York, but how they are to be found in Brooklyn, where this unhealthy discussion has racked every tea-table to its foundation caster, and set the household gods at war, passes our comprehension, and we can comprehend a good deal. The only feasible device is for the lawyers to get twelve men who are deaf and dumb and blind, if twelve such men exist; deaf and dumb men will not do, for they have read it all, and doubtless know it by heart; and blind men will not do, for they have probably heard it read and talked over until they are walking libraries of scandal; but men deaf and dumb and blind are tolerably sure to have remained in blissful ignorance of the whole Tragedy of Errors. This would make an impartial jury, and while it might be a little difficult for them to hear and grasp the operations of the trial, they could hardly be poorer jurymen than many we have had, and hardly render more absurd verdicts. While we are on the subject, let us suggest that Mrs. Morse ought to be retained in some capacity on the side opposing Tilton. A lady with such a vigorous command of language and such evident sincerity in pronouncing her opinions would make a deep impression on even a deaf and dumb and blind jury.

The divinity that doth hedge a king is made of very small account in these days; people discuss the shape of his nose and the fit of his clo'es and his "goings-on" generally, as Mrs. Candle would say, without fear and without reverence. Here is *The London Spectator* mentioning the members of the royal caste in a patronizing way that would have horrified the ancient critic of that name. It observes that the signs of decay in that caste were never less visible to ordinary eyes. Not only the actual but potential sovereigns of Europe would, it declares, make a formidable squadron of dragoons. There is his Majesty of Germany, "a splendid figger of a man;" there are his Majesty's son and nephew equally personable. The Emperor of Austria is sinewy and stately; the Prince of Wales rivals the professional whip in riding straight to hounds; the King of Italy and his sons are strong and brave; the eldest Romanoff is big and burly; Don Carlos is over six feet tall: and, to be brief, there are several more of those Bourbons who are no less emphatic and gallant in endurance and presence. In spite of all the conclusions of the physiologists the caste of kings is *not* becoming inert and feeble—which is extremely unreasonable and unscientific of it.

After all it was not the tenor Joseph Mario, Marquis of Candia, but the Federal Republican, Alberto Mario, who was arrested in Italy. The arrest seems to have been made in an arbitrary manner; but the letter which caused it was a strong denunciation of the monarchy, and well calculated to excite the Government to vindictive measures.

THE MONTPENSIER PICTURES.

THE EXHIBITION IN THE BOSTON MUSEUM.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE LOAN—THE WAY IN WHICH THE PICTURES CAME TO REACH AMERICA—CORDIAL ANSWER OF THE DUKE TO THE TRUSTEES' REQUEST—THE COLLECTION THE FINEST EVER SEEN IN THIS COUNTRY—THE PICTURES DISCUSSED.

[FROM THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

BOSTON, Sept. 19.—The 55 pictures, mostly Spanish, which have been lent by the Duke de Montpensier to the trustees of the Boston Museum of the Fine Arts, will be shown on Monday, the 21st inst., in the afternoon, to the holders of complimentary tickets, and on Tuesday, I believe, the exhibition will be opened to the general public. I suppose I need not go into details about the way in which this loan came to be made. All your readers know, doubtless, that the Duke de Montpensier, whose Duchess is a sister of the ex-Queen of Spain, Isabella, thought it best, in consequence of the long continued troubles in the Peninsula, to send the pictures in his palace of St. Telmo, at Seville, by which he set most store, to Gibraltar, whence they were to be forwarded to London, where Sir Francis Grant, the President of the Royal Academy, had offered them a room in the Exhibition building. It happened, however, that just as the pictures were ready to be sent off, the death of Sir Edwin Landseer, and the unexpected necessity for devoting the Academy rooms to the exhibition of his works, obliged the President to withdraw his offer to the Duke de Montpensier, and the Duke's pictures consequently remained in the Custom-house at Gibraltar. By a happy concurrence of events their destination was now changed. Mr. Arthur Codman of Boston was passing through Gibraltar on his way to Teneriffe, and hearing that the pictures were stranded in the English Custom-house, where they might stay for years, doing no good to anybody, it occurred to him that, by going the right way to work, he might secure for his own countrymen the enjoyment of them.

He accordingly wrote home that, if proper representations were made to the Duke, and the safety of the pictures guaranteed by responsible persons, it seemed likely that he might give his consent to the pictures being sent to this country. Application was immediately made to the Duke through Mr. Auguste Laugel, long the private secretary to the Duc d'Aumale, and himself distinguished as a writer of no mean ability. Mr. Laugel is married to a Boston lady, the daughter of Mrs. Maria Weston Chapman—a name that must ever be dear to lovers of liberty as that of one of the earliest, most devoted, and most sacrificing of the original abolitionists—and as Mr. Laugel is well acquainted with all the parties representing the Museum of the Fine Arts in this matter, there could not have been a more suitable person through whom to make application to the Duke; and indeed the request of the trustees was immediately acceded to in the most generous manner and in terms "that made the gift more rich." There must be many Americans to whom, considering the high character of the members of the Orleans family and the relations that family has long sustained to our own country, the letter in which the Duke conveyed his consent will give sincere and honorable pleasure. The only conditions exacted were that the pictures should be insured against marine and fire risk on the valuations set down in the list which the Duke sent to Boston, and the letter conveying these conditions concluded with the following words:

I have received with great satisfaction the letter which you did me the honor to write to me in your name and in the name of the trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, concerning the loan of a certain number of works of art to your gallery from my palace of St. Telmo at Seville. In making this loan, I rejoice to think that the first time these pictures leave the place where they belong, it will be to occupy one in an American museum. It will afford me great pleasure to think that I have thus been able to aid in spreading and developing a noble love of the arts in that great nation to which so many bonds have so long united the members of my family. Three generations of it have already had the rare good fortune to admire on the spot, and to defend the free institutions of the United States, and I shall never forget the generous offers which were made to me in critical times by worthy representatives of your great country.

Thus it came about that we are to have, for a year at least, the opportunity of studying a small but choice collection of the works of some of the greatest masters of the Spanish school. It is impossible to tell what impression will be made upon Americans by this exhibition. It is perhaps too late to deprecate a disappointed verdict founded on the too glowing sentences that have been printed in advance in the newspapers. Mr. Charles C. Perkins, to whom this community is already so much indebted for learned and earnest work in educating it to a taste for the Fine Arts, has given us the sober measure of the value of these pictures in an article which appeared, if I am not mistaken, in *The Daily Advertiser*. The actual state of the case cannot be better expressed than in his own words: "Although it would be absurd," he writes, "to pretend that the best masters of the Spanish school are here represented by their finest works, which are only to be found in the great Spanish galleries, yet these pictures offer an opportunity for enjoyment to the general public hitherto unattainable on this side of the Atlantic, and to American artists a chance to study such as they have never before enjoyed out of Europe. "This is the gist of the whole matter. Here in one small room are 27 pictures whose equals have never been seen on this side the water. They are not masterpieces if compared with other pictures by the same artists in the great galleries of Europe, but they are masterpieces compared with what we have had the opportunity of seeing here at home. And those who know most about art know well that every great master puts enough of himself into every picture he paints for the student to judge him by. So, here, in the Murillo, is all the secret of Murillo; in the wonderful head by Velasquez there is enough to explain the Spanish admiration for Velasquez; and from a slow and careful study of these pictures, the names of de Zurbaran, the elder Herrera, de Ribalta, del Piombo, Salvator Rosa, and de Morales must henceforth have for us an individual and clear meaning. It is to be hoped that our young people and our artists will make good use of this opportunity, and that the fruit of their study will be shown in some solidity and earnestness infused into our American practice of art. It will be strange if a year with such pictures as these does not do something to educate us—something to raise our standard.

Of the four rooms formerly devoted to the exhibition of pictures in the building of the Boston Athenæum, two have been appropriated to the Montpensier pictures, but the finest of these—about twenty-seven in number—are hung in one room, that which formerly contained Allston's "Belshazzar's Feast." Nor do they in any material sense fill even this room. One side of it, the one that faces the visitor on entering, is taken up by the four large pictures of Francisco de Zurbaran. On the wall at the right, the Murillo occupies the place of honor in the middle, but it is not a large picture, and it hangs in a large field of cloth, so that it is seen to the best possible advantage. At the sides of the wall on which it hangs are, at the left, two of the three Orrentes, one over the other, and on the right, the third Orrente above, and, below, with ample space about it, the life-size head by Velasquez—more interesting by far, I should say, than this Murillo, or any Murillo, for that matter. The wall of this room at the left is much cut up by a large doorway, and the pictures that can be disposed upon it are never very well lighted. However, they are all worth our trying to see them. At the left of the doorway, are hung two noble groups by the elder Herrera; a powerful Pieta by Louis de Morales, and two landscapes by the younger Herrera—enough to make our Bierstadts stare and gasp. The other space is taken up with a large Vandermeulen—not of much interest—beneath which hang two small studies from large pictures by Velasquez, and a sketch by Juan Valdès Leal for his large picture in the Charity Hospital at Seville, "The Finding of the Holy Cross." On the remaining wall are several fine pictures, "St. Francis in Ecstacy," by Juan de Ribalta; a "Holy Family," by Sebastian del Piombo;